

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide.
2. (Original) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide which has been prepared in a biotechnological process.
3. (Original) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  as claimed in claim 2, consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide which has been prepared by a biocatalytic process.
4. (Original) Spherical microparticles having an average diameter of 1 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  as claimed in claim 2, consisting wholly or partly of at least one water-insoluble linear polysaccharide which has been prepared by a fermentation process.
5. (Original) Spherical microparticles as claimed in claim 1, consisting wholly or partly of 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan.
6. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using polysaccharide synthases.
7. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using starch synthases.
8. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using glycosyltransferases.
9. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using  $\alpha$ -1,4-glucan transferases.

10. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using glycogen synthases.
11. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using amylosucrases.
12. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 5, wherein 1,4- $\alpha$ -D-polyglucan has been prepared by a biocatalytic process using phosphorylases.
13. (Original) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, wherein the linear polysaccharides have been prepared by enzymatic treatment of branched or highly branched polysaccharides.

14-25 cancelled.

26. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having an average diameter of 100 nm to 100  $\mu$ m.
27. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having a narrow distribution of particle diameters (dispersity).
28. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 27, wherein the dispersity of the particle diameters  $d_w$  to  $d_n$  is 1.0 to 10.0.
29. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, which additionally comprise one or more, preferably biodegradable polymers.
30. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, which additionally comprise one or more active substances.

31. (New) A process for preparing spherical microparticles which consist wholly or partly of water-insoluble linear polysaccharides by dissolving the water-insoluble linear polysaccharide in a solvent, introducing the solution into a precipitant, cooling the mixture resulting therefrom, and removing the microparticles formed.
32. (New) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein solution and precipitant are mixed at temperatures from 20 to 50°C, and the mixture is cooled to temperatures from + 10 to -10°C.
33. (New) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the solvent is dimethyl sulfoxide.
34. (New) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the precipitant is water or an aqueous medium.
35. (New) The process as claimed in claim 31, wherein the solution is prepared in the presence of one or more polymers and/or of one or more active substances.
36. (New) A controlled delivery of active substance which comprises the microparticles as claimed in claim 1.
37. (New) A standard for determining the size of particles which comprises using the microparticles as claimed in claim 1.
38. (New) Microparticles as claimed in claim 1, having an average diameter of 1 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$  and the dispersity of the particle diameters  $d_w$  to  $d_n$  is 2.0 to 2.6.